

## REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 20 August 2002, Applicant respectfully offers the following Amendment and Remarks. Reconsideration and reevaluation of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner made certain objections to the title (paragraph 1) and to the abstract (paragraph 2). Applicant has submitted a new title, "Method of Making a Plurality of Interconnected Vials". Additionally, Applicant has deleted the present abstract, and provided a new abstract, which contains the steps of filling the interconnected vials and heat sealing the interconnected vials.

Additionally, in paragraph 3, page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to certain informalities in the disclosure; Applicant has amended the disclosure in order to obviate those informalities. The Examiner's assistance in this regard is appreciated.

In response to paragraph 4 on page 3, Applicant submits herewith new Figures 2A and 2B. No new matter has been added. Applicant has deleted "Figure 2". Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is also now obviated.

At page 3, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner issued a nonstatutory double patenting rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,791, in view of Porfano *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,044). Applicant has amended the claims. Further, Applicant submits a Terminal Disclaimer. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has now been obviated.

At page 6, paragraph 7, the Examiner notes that claims 2-5, 8-15, and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the double patenting rejection set forth in this Office Action and

to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 16-17 and 19. Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims, namely claims 1, 3-6, and 8-19, as amended, are now in a position for allowance.

If it would aid in the disposition of this matter, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned. Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9-Jan-2003



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

- 5       A.       At page 10, the paragraph starting with line 7, please delete the present text and replace with the following text:

[FIGURE 2 is] FIGURES 2A and 2B are the mold apparatus of FIGURE 1 with the cold half of the mold advanced against the hot half of the mold.

- 10       B.       At page 13, the paragraph starting at line 1, please delete the present text and replace with the following text:

Also as seen in Fig. 1, the mold base 20 contains the openings 30, 32, 34, 36, with these openings allowing communication of a water stream line to the slide insert members 26, 28. Thus, the opening 30 will have the [input/output?] input / output water lines 38, the opening 32 will have  
15 the input / output water lines 40, the opening 34 will have the input / output water lines [42] 44, and the opening 36 will have the input / output water lines [44] 42.

- C.       At page 19, the paragraph starting at line 21 and continuing on page 20, please delete the present text through page 20 line 2 and replace with the following text:

20       As shown in Fig. 5B, the invention includes the row of core pins 68A-68L and the concentrically placed tubular members 188A-188L. Therefore, a series of annuluses 190A-190L are formed for channeling the water as previously defined. [Fig. 5] Fig. 5B also depicts the water channels 166 and 168 that allow for channeling the water into and out of the tubular members 188A-188L.

D. At page 23, the paragraph starting at line 16, please delete the present paragraph and replace with the following paragraph:

The containers thus produced may be used as a vial for medical purposes. Therefore, the method may further include providing a drug in a tablet embodiment and inserting the tablet into the open end of the vial (container). Next, the open end of the vial may be sealed so that the vial is a closed container. Alternatively, the method may include providing a drug in a liquid form and inserting the liquid into the open end of the vial, and thereafter, sealing the open end of the vial so that the vial is a closed container. The open end may be sealed via conventional means such as heat sealing. With the teachings of this invention, an exact amount of medicine may be placed within the vial, with the exact prescription depending on the patient's particular medical requirements.

E. At page 25, the paragraph starting at line 9, please delete the present text and replace with the following text:

The second arm 328 is movable and will be maneuvered into engagement with the arm 324 via the lever means, seen generally at 330. The second arm 328 comprises a first bar 332 and a second bar 334. The first bar 332 contains a first terminal connector means 336 and a second terminal connector means 338 for [supplying] supplying an electrical heat to the second arm 328. The second arm 328 is also heated. [**Both arms are heated in this embodiment, even though it is possible to have only one arm heated for purposes of heat sealing.\*...**] Both arms are heated in this embodiment, even though it is possible to have only one arm heated for purposes of heat sealing. The second arm further contains a base 340.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly rewrite the claims as follows:

- 5           1.       (Once Amended) A method of manufacturing a plurality of encapsulated interconnected vials with a mold having a first member having attached thereto a plurality of core pins, and [a second member containing a first slide and a second slide, and wherein said first slide and said second slide have an extended position and a contracted position, and] wherein the method comprises:
- 10                   -[contracting said first slide and said second slide so that] forming a plurality of cavity profiles linked together by a plurality of arms [are formed];
- inserting the plurality of core pins on said first member into said plurality of cavity profiles so that said plurality of core pins are free standing;
- injecting a plastic fluid about said plurality of core pins to form a plurality of
- 15 interconnected vials;
- [ejecting] removing the plurality of interconnected vials [from the plurality of core pins] from the mold;
- positioning the plurality of interconnected vials into a holder tray;
- placing a liquid into the plurality of interconnected vials;
- 20                   -heat sealing the open end of the plurality of interconnected vials in order to encapsulate said plurality of interconnected vials, and wherein the step of heat sealing includes:
- clamping the plurality of interconnected vials into a heat sealing device;
- applying heat to the heat sealing device;
- measuring the temperature of the applied heat;
- 25                   -measuring the time heat is applied to said heat sealing device.

3. (Once Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, further comprising:

- terminating the heat applied to said first arm after a predetermined time;
- unclasping the first arm from the second arm;
- removing the plurality of interconnected vials from said holder.

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5. (Once Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the step of heat sealing further includes:

[clamping the plurality of interconnected vials into a heat sealing device, and wherein the heat sealing device contains a first arm and a second arm;

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- lowering the first arm into engagement with the second arm;
- applying heat to the first arm;
- measuring the temperature of the first arm;]
- setting a predetermined maximum temperature;
- exceeding the predetermined maximum temperature;

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-terminating the heat applied after exceeding the predetermined maximum temperature.

6. (Once Amended) A method of molding a plurality of interconnected vials with a mold, said mold comprising a first member having a first end and a second end[, including an opening defined within said first end]; a manifold member operatively attached to said second end of said first member for channeling a plastic fluid to an insert means[, said insert means being positioned with the opening located within said first member], and said insert means containing a first slide and a second slide, with said first slide and said second slide having an extended position and a contracted position; a second member having a first end and a second end, and wherein said first end of said second member has attached thereto a plurality of core pins contained therein; the

method comprising:

-heating a plastic so that the plastic is fluidized;

-[channeling the plastic fluid into the manifold];

-injecting the plastic fluid into the manifold;

5                    -moving said piston so that said first end of said second member contacts said first slide and said second slide;

-injecting the plastic fluid through said first member;

-contracting said first slide and said second slide [so that the first end of said second member abuts the first end of said first member];

10                   -forming a plurality of cavity profiles within said contracted first slide and said second slide and wherein said plurality of cavity profiles are in communication forming a plurality of arm contours;

-placing said plurality of core pins into said plurality of cavity profiles so that said plurality of core pins are free standing within said plurality of cavity profiles;

15                   -injecting the plastic fluid into said plurality of cavity profiles and into said plurality of arm contours interconnected together via a plurality of arms;

-allowing the first slide and second slide to expand;

-ejecting the plurality of interconnected vials [from the plurality of core pins];

-placing the plurality of interconnected vials into a vial holder tray;

20                   -placing a medicine within an open end of said plurality of interconnected vials;

-placing the open end of said plurality of interconnected vials within a heat sealer

device;

-clamping said plurality of interconnected vials within said heat sealer device;

-applying heat to said heat sealer device.

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8. (Once Amended) The method of claim [7] 6, [further comprising] wherein the step of applying heat further comprises:

[-placing the open end of said plurality of interconnected vials within a heat sealer device, said heat sealer device comprising a first arm and a second arm;

5 -clamping said plurality of interconnected vials within said first arm and second arm;

-applying heat to said first arm;]

-measuring the amount of heat applied to [said] a first arm of said heat sealer device;

-measuring the time the heat is applied to said first arm;

-terminating the heat after a predetermined amount of time has expired.

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16. (Once Amended) A method of producing a plurality of interconnected vials in a mold, the mold comprising a first member having a first end and a second end, including an opening defined within said first end; a manifold member operatively attached to said second end of said first member for channeling a plastic fluid to a first slide and a second slide positioned within the  
15 opening, with said first slide and said second slide having an extended position and a contracted position; a second member having a first end and a second end, and wherein said first end of said second member contains a plurality of core pins contained therein; an ejector plate selectively attachable to said second member, said plurality of core pins being disposed therethrough; and, a piston adapted to said second end of said second member for reciprocating said second member  
20 into engagement with said first slide and said second slide, the method comprising:

-heating a plastic so that a plastic fluid is formed;

-injecting the plastic fluid through said first member and into said first slide and said second slide;

-moving said piston so that said second member contacts said first slide and said  
25 second slide;



-contracting said first slide and said second slide so that said contracted first slide and said second slide form a plurality of cavity profiles and wherein said plurality of cavities are linked together by a plurality of arms, said cavity profiles having a first end and a second end, with the first end containing a wing tip contour, and the second end being opened;

5                    -placing said plurality of core pins into said plurality of cavity profiles and wherein said plurality of core pins are in a free standing arrangement within said cavity profiles;

-injecting the plastic fluid into said cavity profiles;

-injecting the plastic fluid about said plurality of core pins so that the plasticize fluid is disposed about said core pin so that the plurality of interconnected vials are formed;

10                   -reciprocating the piston away from the first end of said first member;

-allowing the first slide and second slide to expand;

-reciprocating the piston so that the ejector plate axially traverses the plurality of core pins;

15                   -ejecting the plurality of interconnected vials from the plurality of core pins, and wherein the plurality of interconnected vials comprises a first end that is closed and a second end that is opened;

-placing said plurality of interconnected vials within a holder tray;

-placing a flowable compound within said plurality of interconnected vials;

20                   -placing the open end of said plurality of interconnected vials within a heat sealer device, said heat sealer device comprising a first arm and a second arm;

-clamping said plurality of interconnected vials within said first arm and second arm;

-applying heat to said first arm.

25                   17.        (Once Amended) The method of claim 16 [further comprising] wherein the step of applying heat further comprises:

[-placing the open end of said plurality of interconnected vials within a heat sealer device, said heat sealer device comprising a first arm and a second arm;

-clamping said plurality of interconnected vials within said first arm and second arm;

-applying heat to said first arm;]

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-measuring the amount of heat applied;

-measuring the time the heat is applied;

-terminating the heat after a predetermined amount of time has expired.

19. (Once Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the [medicine] flowable compound  
10 is a liquid and the step of placing the liquid into the plurality of interconnected vials includes measuring a predetermined amount of liquid and injecting the liquid into the open end of the plurality of interconnected vials.

Please delete claims 2 and 7 without prejudice nor disclaimer as to the subject matter  
15 contained therein.